
SENATE BILL 5066

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Newhouse, Loveland, Rasmussen and Hochstatter

Read first time 01/09/95. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to property tax reform; amending RCW 84.33.035 and
2 84.33.170; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 84.33.035 and 1986 c 315 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
7 this section apply throughout this chapter.

8 (1) "Composite property tax rate" for a county means the total
9 amount of property taxes levied upon forest lands by all taxing
10 districts in the county other than the state, divided by the total
11 assessed value of all forest land in the county.

12 (2) "Forest land" means forest land which is classified or
13 designated forest land under this chapter.

14 (3) "Harvested" means the time when in the ordinary course of
15 business the quantity of timber by species is first definitely
16 determined. The amount harvested shall be determined by the Scribner
17 Decimal C Scale or other prevalent measuring practice adjusted to
18 arrive at substantially equivalent measurements, as approved by the
19 department of revenue.

1 (4) "Harvester" means every person who from the person's own land
2 or from the land of another under a right or license granted by lease
3 or contract, either directly or by contracting with others for the
4 necessary labor or mechanical services, fells, cuts, or takes timber
5 for sale or for commercial or industrial use: PROVIDED, That whenever
6 the United States or any instrumentality thereof, the state, including
7 its departments and institutions and political subdivisions, or any
8 municipal corporation therein so fells, cuts, or takes timber for sale
9 or for commercial or industrial use, the harvester is the first person
10 other than the United States or any instrumentality thereof, the state,
11 including its departments and institutions and political subdivisions,
12 or any municipal corporation therein, who acquires title to or a
13 possessory interest in such timber. The term "harvester" does not
14 include persons performing under contract the necessary labor or
15 mechanical services for a harvester.

16 (5) "Short-rotation hardwoods" means hardwood trees, such as but
17 not limited to hybrid cottonwoods, cultivated by agricultural methods
18 in growing cycles shorter than ten years.

19 (6) "Stumpage value of timber" means the appropriate stumpage value
20 shown on tables prepared by the department of revenue under RCW
21 84.33.091, provided that for timber harvested from public land and sold
22 under a competitive bidding process, stumpage value shall mean that
23 actual amount paid to the seller in cash or other consideration.
24 Whenever payment for the stumpage includes considerations other than
25 cash, the value shall be the fair market value of the other
26 consideration, provided that if the other consideration is permanent
27 roads, the value of the roads shall be the appraised value as appraised
28 by the seller.

29 ((+6+)) (7) "Timber" means forest trees, standing or down, on
30 privately or publicly owned land, and except as provided in RCW
31 84.33.170 includes Christmas trees.

32 ((+7+)) (8) "Timber assessed value" for a county means a value,
33 calculated by the department of revenue before October 1 of each year,
34 equal to the total stumpage value of timber harvested from privately
35 owned land in the county during the most recent four calendar quarters
36 for which the information is available multiplied by a ratio. The
37 numerator of the ratio is the rate of tax imposed by the county under
38 RCW 84.33.051 for the year of the calculation. The denominator of the
39 ratio is the composite property tax rate for the county for taxes due

1 in the year of the calculation, expressed as a percentage of assessed
2 value.

3 ~~((+8))~~ (9) "Timber assessed value" for a taxing district means the
4 timber assessed value for the county multiplied by a ratio. The
5 numerator of the ratio is the total assessed value of forest land in
6 the taxing district. The denominator is the total assessed value of
7 forest land in the county. As used in this section, "assessed value of
8 forest land" means the assessed value of forest land for taxes due in
9 the year the timber assessed value for the county is calculated.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 84.33.170 and 1984 c 204 s 24 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, this
13 chapter shall not exempt from the ad valorem tax nor subject to the
14 excise tax imposed by this chapter, Christmas trees and short-rotation
15 hardwoods which are grown on land which has been prepared by intensive
16 cultivation and tilling, such as by plowing or turning over the soil,
17 and on which all unwanted plant growth is controlled continuously for
18 the exclusive purpose of raising such Christmas trees and short-
19 rotation hardwoods, and such land on which such Christmas trees and
20 short-rotation hardwoods stand shall not be taxed as provided in RCW
21 84.33.100 through 84.33.140.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act applies to taxes levied in 1995 for
23 collection in 1996 and thereafter.

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